

RELATED TERMS

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- Chemical Weapons Exercise



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PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- State and Local Executive Offices
- Community Preparedness
- Military

PRACTICE NOTE

Exercise Evaluation: Local Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Communities' Use of Qualified Peer-Evaluators

PRACTICE

Communities participating in the joint Department of the Army and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) recruit individuals from other CSEPP communities to serve as exercise evaluators. This practice ensures that CSEPP communities can rely on a trained and knowledgeable evaluator pool to evaluate exercises even as the CSEPP exercises program evolves.

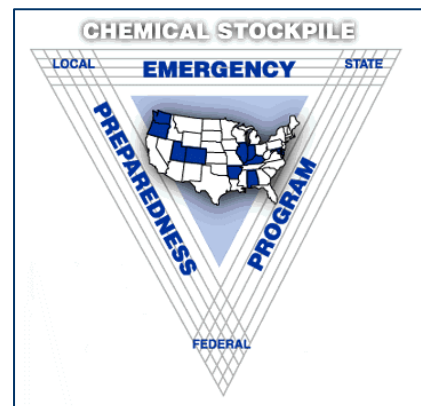
DESCRIPTION

DHS and the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) provide communities located near the seven remaining U.S. chemical weapons storage facilities with hazardous materials planning, training, and response assistance under the CSEP Program. States with CSEPP communities include Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. CSEPP communities are required to hold annual full-scale chemical accident response exercises to prepare for potential accidents at the storage facilities.

For more than 12 years, CSEPP has used state, local, and installation response professionals to form the evaluation teams for these exercises. These professionals bring years of chemical incident response experience from their own CSEPP communities to the evaluation effort, ensuring their partners are provided an accurate assessment of their ability to respond to a release of a chemical warfare agent into the general population and environment.

To become qualified, potential evaluators are trained in both general exercise and CSEPP-specific evaluation techniques at regional courses offered by DHS. This training is followed by on-the-job training as part of a jurisdiction evaluation team at a CSEPP exercise. Qualified evaluators are asked to commit to evaluating two exercises per year. This practice of sharing appropriately trained and knowledgeable evaluators ensures that exercise assessments are accurate and that corrective action recommendations are based upon practice and experience. Communities benefit from sharing evaluators through the natural exchange of lessons and best practices that occurs as the evaluation process unfolds.

CSEPP has standardized procedures for assigning evaluators to various locations. Once extent of play agreements are developed, the exercise planning team determines its evaluator needs. Working with CMA and DHS CSEPP exercise co-directors, the community's



exercise planning team requests evaluators with specific expertise (such as county-level EOC operations or chemical decontamination). The CSEPP exercise co-directors then distribute the requests through the DHS regional offices to state CSEPP exercise and training officers, who in turn solicit evaluators with the desired expertise from within their CSEPP communities.

CITATIONS

Hewett, Paul. Deputy Director, Center for Integrated Emergency Preparedness, Argonne National Laboratory. Interviews with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 15 Aug 2006 and 29 Aug 2006.

Sagers, Kari. Director, Tooele County, Utah, Emergency Management Agency. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 29 Sep 2006.

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